(0 Coal supply to coal based power stations is being regularly monitored.

(if) Continuous interaction of CEA engineers with Plant Authorities, BHEL and other concerned agencies for solving bottlenecks in O&M activities.

(iii) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units.

(iv) Continuous interaction of CEA along with the better performing utilities and the poor performing utilities to introduce better O&M practices so as to improve the plant load factor.

**Participation** of MNCs **in** hydro power projects

1810. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Government is proposing to restrict certain MNCs from participating in hydro power projects; and

if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. In fact, the Government of India is encouraging private participation in power projects. 100% FDI is already permitted in the power generation (except atomic energy) transmission & distribution projects.

(b) Does not arise.

**Power generation from dams in Northern India**

1**8**11. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the water table of main electricity generating dams of Northern India like Bhakra, Pong, Thien, Rihand and Matatila, Gandhi Nagar, Bansagar, Indira Sagar and Bargi, etc. has gone down drastically;

whether it is also a fact that the electricity production has been affected adversely due to fall in the water table;

if so, the quantum of electricity generated in these dams and the shortfall in electricity production due to fall in the water table;

whether Government has formulated any plan in this regard; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The water levels in the current year in the Bhakra, Pong, Thein, Rihand, Gandhisagar, Bansager Indirasagar and Bargi are lower than the levels on the same day of last year except in Matatila. The details of water level in respect of these dams are as under:—

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.